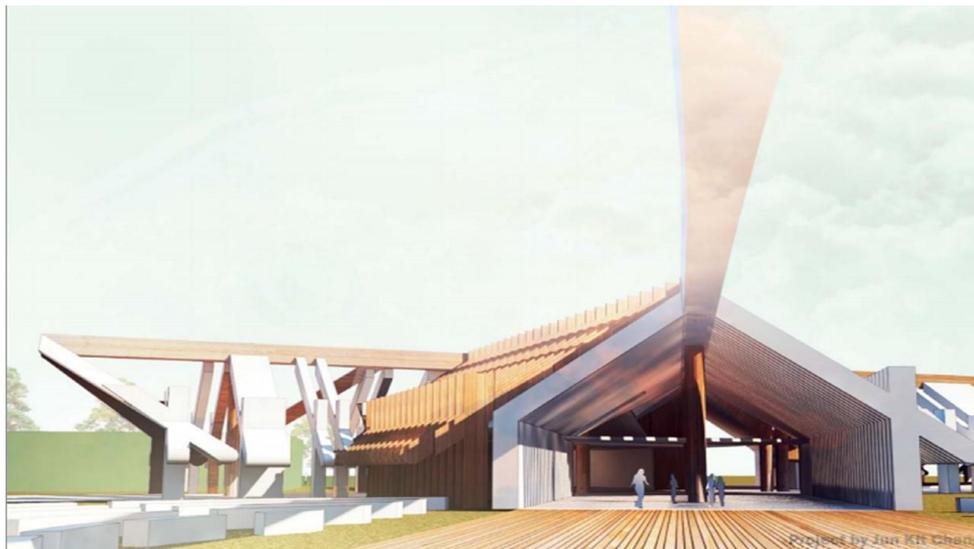




THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
MARAEMELBOURNE INCORPORATED



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

MARAE MELBOURNE CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

MARCH 2016

“Ka anga atu toku kanohi ki runga I te nui whakaharahara o tenei whenua. Tenei Papa Tapu I haruru ana I te tapuae o Ngai Koori nga tangata whenua o tenei moutere. Ka nui te mihi atu ki a ratou.

E te Iwi, kua mihi, kua tangihia o tatou tini aitua. Ko tatou ra enei, ko nga morehurehu, e tangi nei, e mihi nei, tena rawa atu tatou katoa.”

“I start by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land in which we gather today. I ask for their blessings as we conduct our work on their sacred lands. I acknowledge their elders both past and present. I acknowledge those of our ancestors and family who have passed before us, and to those of us who remain, from the four winds of New Zealand brought to Victoria through interest and opportunity, I take this time to acknowledge you also.”

I feel honoured again to present the Chairperson’s report on behalf of the organisation of MaraeMelbourne over the past 15 months. 2015 has been a particularly successful year with our continued focus on the duality of Marae and People build. That success is reflected in the organisations strategic outlook and vision for moving forward. Central to this success has been the support and championing by key contributors to this vision. To the Marae Leadership team of Mat Taia, Denise Cosgrove and well led by the CEO Raina Smith, thank you for your energy and electricity in progressing things forward. To the wider Management committee, I commend you for your unwavering support to back and challenge what that vision is for moving forward, but nonetheless in the spirit of a greater purpose in sight.

I often reflect on the difficult questions that are asked of us ie: “Why has the Marae not been built yet”, “When will it be build”, “Where is it and can we book it yet”. Whilst on the surface you could be defensive, argumentative and negative in responding, in reality I see these as questions that speak to the validity of this kaupapa (purpose) and one where I see this organisation as embodying the mantle of responsibility on behalf of those asking the questions, to see this through to the end. This is what empowers me to continue on. Again, as I also reflect on the work of this organisation and the achievements to date, I am however saddened that some of these achievements have not been widely shared and rejoiced to their full potential. We as an organisation know what we have achieved, but it is time to share it. *I liken this metaphorically to being a group of paddlers in our waka out in the sea and heading to the shore. Although we may not be seen through the treacherous currents, tides, waves and unpredictable weather, we could and can certainly be heard.*

This report is about illuminating the achievements of the past 15 months and have been summarised into key themes:-

1. Marae Build – a trajectory moving onwards and upwards.
2. People Build – inspiration and inclusiveness
3. Citizenship Rights – Maori, Pasifika, New Zealanders, Australians – finding our place.
4. Our People – nucleus core
5. Our Partners – across all sectors of the community

1. MARAE BUILD

RMIT PROJECT

In collaboration with RMIT University we partnered with the School of Architecture to pitch a proposal for a group of Masters students to take on the challenge of building physical concepts of a Marae in Melbourne for one of their units. We were overwhelmed with the take up of our project by the students who were from all around the world and were excited by the prospect of what each and every one of them could bring to their projects. Through a period of consultation, wananga and information sharing, we were proud to unveil 14 conceptual designs of a Marae. It was the starting point for seeing a tangible set of designs that capture imagination of space and place. We will continue to work with RMIT collegially in the spirit of true partnership on other exciting pathways ahead.



IWI CHAIRS FORUM

I am delighted to report that all the work of this organisation over the years was recognised and valued by the Iwi Chairs Forum New Zealand. Their unanimous decision to support the development of Marae in Melbourne has resulted in the convening of an Iwi Leadership Working Group. MaraeMelbourne is proud to be able to have a space in this arena to progress the kaupapa of Marae Build. Equally important is the opportunity to inform all Iwi at home about the challenges; and the impacts that face their descendants and beneficiaries (Taura Here) living in Australia. Watch this space.....



2. PEOPLE BUILD

FORGING NEW PATHS PROJECT

In 2015 MaraeMelbourne completed a 4-episode TV series called Forging New Paths (FNP) which aired on Channel 31 from 25 September 2015 for four weeks. The project focussed on bringing together the Maori and Pasifika communities to weave their individual or group contributions into the rich tapestry of multicultural diversity in Melbourne. MaraeMelbourne's FNP project supported Maori and Pasifika Groups in Melbourne to come together as 'one community' to share experiences and stories of settlement in Australia. FNPs provided a media platform to showcase our unique cultural attributes and community contributions across Victoria. This project was successfully completed in collaboration with multiple Maori and Pasifika groups across the State.

5. OUR PARTNERS

SHARED VISIONS

To our partners, to our supporters and to those that see the value and impact that this kaupapa and vision will created. Partnerships ease burdens, they share loads, they revel in the diversity of ideas and ambition and at their very hearts they seek and offer support.

MaraeMelbourne is strengthened by the support of many in the community, whether it is community groups, private enterprise, businesses and corporations, network groups, sports clubs, associations, local and state governments, we thank you and we value you.

"Nau te rourou, naku te rourou, ka ora ai te Iwi".

"With your basket, with my basket, we can provide for our people".

Nga manaakitanga o te runga rawa



Te Hira Cooper

Chairperson